

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus for analyzing a job which is received from a server apparatus connected through a network and controlling a printer for
5 executing a predetermined post-sheet process to an output sheet through an ejecting unit, comprising:

notifying means for notifying said server apparatus of paper ejecting process resource information and color output information for said
10 ejecting unit in response to an inquiry from said server apparatus;

sending means for analyzing the output information and an ejection command which are received from said server apparatus and sending image data which is
15 generated and said ejection command to said printer;

discriminating means for discriminating whether pages which are formed by said sending means are succeeding or not; and

output control means for, when it is determined by
20 said discriminating means that the pages are succeeding, regarding said succeeding pages as one job and allowing the output pages to be outputted to a same ejection destination of said ejecting unit.

25 2. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising judging means for judging whether the number of pages which are ejected to the same ejection

destination designated by said output control means exceeds the limited number of ejection pages during the output of the pages to the same ejection destination or not,

5 and wherein when it is determined by said judging means that the number of pages which are ejected to the same ejection destination exceeds the limited number of ejection pages, said output control means interrupts the page output and allows the pages to be ejected to a
10 different ejection destination in said ejecting unit.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when it is determined by said judging means that the number of pages which are ejected to the same ejection
15 destination exceeds the limited number of ejection pages, said output control means interrupts the page output until the output page which is being ejected is removed, and at a time point when the removal of the output page which is being ejected is completed, said
20 output control means restarts a process for ejecting the pages to a different ejection destination in said ejecting unit.

4. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said
25 ejecting unit has a sorter processing function for sorting and outputting each output sheet by using a plurality of bins or a shift processing function for

deviating an ejecting position of each output sheet and putting the sheets onto the same tray.

5 5. A data processing method in an image processing apparatus for analyzing a job which is received from a server apparatus connected through a network and controlling a printer for executing a predetermined post-sheet process to an output sheet through an ejecting unit, comprising:

10 a notifying step of notifying said server apparatus of paper ejecting process resource information and color output information for said ejecting unit in response to an inquiry from said server apparatus;

15 a sending step of analyzing the output information and an ejection command which are received from said server apparatus and sending image data which is generated and said ejection command to said printer;

20 a discriminating step of discriminating whether pages which are formed by said sending step are succeeding or not; and

25 an output control step of, when it is determined by said discriminating step that the pages are succeeding, regarding said succeeding pages as one job and allowing the output pages to be outputted to a same ejection destination of said ejecting unit.

6. A method according to claim 5, further comprising a judging step of judging whether the number of pages which are ejected to the same ejection destination designated by said output control step exceeds the limited number of ejection pages during the output of the pages to the same ejection destination or not,

and wherein when it is determined by said judging step that the number of pages which are ejected to the same ejection destination exceeds the limited number of ejection pages, in said output control step, the page output is interrupted and the pages are ejected to a different ejection destination in said ejecting unit.

7. A method according to claim 5, wherein when it is determined by said judging step that the number of pages which are ejected to the same ejection destination exceeds the limited number of ejection pages, in said output control step, the page output is interrupted until the output page which is being ejected is removed, and at a time point when the removal of the output page which is being ejected is completed, a process for ejecting the pages to a different ejection destination in said ejecting unit is restarted.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein said

ejecting unit has a sorter processing function for
sorting and outputting each output sheet by using a
plurality of bins or a shift processing function for
deviating an ejecting position of each output sheet and
5 putting the sheets onto the same tray.

9. A computer program which is executed by a
computer of an image processing apparatus for analyzing
a job which is received from a server apparatus
10 connected through a network and controlling a printer
for executing a predetermined post-sheet process to an
output sheet through an ejecting unit, comprising:

a notifying step of notifying said server
apparatus of paper ejecting process resource
15 information and color output information for said
ejecting unit in response to an inquiry from said
server apparatus;

a sending step of analyzing the output information
and an ejection command which are received from said
20 server apparatus and sending image data which is
generated and said ejection command to said printer;

a discriminating step of discriminating whether
pages which are formed by said sending step are
succeeding or not; and

25 an output control step of, when it is determined
by said discriminating step that the pages are
succeeding, regarding said succeeding pages as one job

and allowing the output pages to be outputted to a same ejection destination of said ejecting unit.

10. A computer-readable memory medium which stores
5 the computer program according to claim 9.

11. An information processing apparatus connected to a first printer and a second printer, comprising:
discriminating means for discriminating to which
10 of said first printer and said second printer each page of print information is outputted;

output means for outputting the page in said print information which was determined to be outputted to said first printer to said first printer and outputting
15 the page in said print information which was determined to be outputted to said second printer to said second printer; and

control means for adding control information for switching ejecting positions regarding the pages in
20 which succession of page numbers was broken to the print information which is outputted to said first printer by said output means in a manner such that the pages are sorted and ejected on an output page unit basis of the succeeding page numbers in said first
25 printer.

12. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein

said control means further adds control information for switching ejecting positions regarding the pages in which succession of page numbers was broken to the print information which is outputted to said second
5 printer by said output means in a manner such that the pages are sorted and ejected on an output page unit basis of the succeeding page numbers in said second printer.

10 13. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said control means further adds said control information in accordance with the sorting function which said first printer has.

15 14. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said control information is control information for instructing a sorter processing function for sorting and outputting each output sheet by using a plurality of bins.

20 15. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said control information is control information for instructing a shift processing function for deviating the ejecting position of each output sheet and putting
25 the sheets onto a same tray.

16. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein

said control information is control information for instructing a rotation ejection function for switching an ejecting direction of sheets either to a portrait direction or a landscape direction.

5

17. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said discriminating means discriminates to which of said first printer and said second printer each page of the print information should be outputted in accordance with whether information to be color printed exists in each page of the print information or not.

10

18. An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said first printer is a monochromatic printer and said second printer is a color printer.

15

19. A print information outputting method comprising:

a discriminating step of discriminating to which of a first printer and a second printer each page of print information is outputted;

20

an output step of outputting the page in said print information which was determined to be outputted to said first printer to said first printer and outputting the page in said print information which was determined to be outputted to said second printer to said second printer; and

25

a control step of adding control information for switching ejecting positions regarding the pages in which succession of page numbers was broken to the print information which is outputted to said first
5 printer by said output step in a manner such that the pages are sorted and ejected on an output page unit basis of the succeeding page numbers in said first printer.

10 20. A method according to claim 19, wherein in said control step, control information for switching ejecting positions regarding the pages in which succession of page numbers was broken is further added to the print information which is outputted to said
15 second printer by said output step in a manner such that the pages are sorted and ejected on an output page unit basis of the succeeding page numbers in said second printer.

20 21. A method according to claim 19, wherein in said control step, said control information is added in accordance with the sorting function which said first printer has.

25 22. A method according to claim 21, wherein said control information is control information for instructing a sorter processing function for sorting

and outputting each output sheet by using a plurality of bins.

23. A method according to claim 21, wherein said
5 control information is control information for
instructing a shift processing function for deviating
the ejecting position of each output sheet and putting
the sheets onto a same tray.

10 24. A method according to claim 21, wherein said
control information is control information for
instructing a rotation ejection function for switching
an ejecting direction of sheets either to a portrait
direction or a landscape direction.

15 25. A method according to claim 19, wherein in said
discriminating step, to which of said first printer and
said second printer each page of the print information
should be outputted is discriminated in accordance with
20 whether information to be color printed exists in each
page of the print information or not.

26. A method according to claim 25, wherein said
first printer is a monochromatic printer and said
25 second printer is a color printer.

27. A computer program which is executed by a

computer of an information processing apparatus
connected to a first printer and a second printer,
comprising:

5 a discriminating step of discriminating to which
of said first printer and said second printer each page
of print information is outputted;

an output step of outputting the page in said
print information which was determined to be outputted
to said first printer to said first printer and
10 outputting the page in said print information which was
determined to be outputted to said second printer to
said second printer; and

a control step of adding control information for
switching ejecting positions regarding the pages in
15 which succession of page numbers was broken to the
print information which is outputted to said first
printer by said output step in a manner such that the
pages are sorted and ejected on an output page unit
basis of the succeeding page numbers in said first
20 printer.

28. A computer-readable memory medium which stores
the computer program according to claim 27.